

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 7 with the following:

Above and below the strip 10 a stationarily installed partition 12, 13 is provided whose upper part 12 extends up to the stand platform (not illustrated) and whose lower part 13, for the purpose of return of separated liquid, is positioned at a slant downwardly in the direction of the roll stand. The partition 12, 13 opens at the strip into a frame 14, 15 which is also stationarily arranged or is moveably configured and arranged in a movable blast nozzle support 16, 16', 17, 17'. The end of the partition 12, 13 facing the strip provided with the blast nozzle support 16, 16', 17, 17' is formed by blast nozzle bars 18, 19 with centrally arranged blast nozzles 23 in the form of bores which are fastened at the side facing the strip on the blast nozzle supports 16', 17' and which, by means of the movable arrangement of the frames 14, 15 and the movable arrangement of the blast nozzle supports 16, 16', 17, 17', can be moved into a position very close to the strip 10. An adjustable or fixedly installed stop 20 ensures that a certain gap width between the blast nozzle bars 18, 19 and the surface of the strip 10 is adjustable in this connection or is adjusted automatically as a result of the compressed gas buffer, wherein, as a result of the possibility of the movability of the blast nozzle bars, this gap can thus be adjusted also to different strip thicknesses.

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Together with the components of the blast nozzle supports 16, 16',
17, 17',